Amendments To The Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, lines 3-13 with the following amended paragraph:

The term "wetting agent" refers to a biocompatible agent which facilitates or enhances the hydration or lubrication of a hemostatic sponge. Examples of suitable wetting agents include polyoxyalkylenes (such as BASF Pluronics™, UCC Carbowaxes™, PEGs™), ether capped polyoxyalkylenes, e.g., polyoxyethylene lauryl ether, ester capped polyoxyalkylenes, e.g., polyoxyethylene stearate, sorbitan esters (such as certain products called Span™ and Tween™), phosphatides (such as lecithin), alkyl amines, glycerin, water soluble polymers such as polyethylene oxides, carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyvinyl pyrrolidone, surfactants such as alky (C_6-C_{20}) sulfate salts, e.g. sodium lauryl sulfate, aryl (C_6-C_{10}) sulfate salts, and alkaryl (C_7-C_{24}) sulfate salts, and the like.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 12, lines 1-9 with the following amended paragraphs:

Suitable biocompatible wetting agents are commercially available and include, for example, sodium lauryl sulfate, Pluronic™ F-68, Pluronic™ F-38, Pluronic™ P-105, Pluronic™-10R5, Tween™ 20, Tween™ 60, Tween™ 85, Brij™ 35, Brij™ 78, Myrj™ 52, PEG™ 600, glycerin and the like.

In addition, biocompatible wetting agents can be incorporated into biocompatible collagen hemostatic sponges (e.g., Actifoam™) to improve their wetting times in the manner and concentrations set forth above. Suitable wetting agents include Tween™ 20 (1% in isopropanol) and Pluronic™ P-105 (1% in isopropanol).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, lines 4-16, with the following amended paragraph:

The following candidate wetting agents were each incorporated into the gelatin prior to foaming:

1. Polyacrylamide (weight average molecular weight of about 1500) (as a sample of ~~an~~ a cationic wetting agent)

2. Sodium lauryl sulfate (as a sample of a anionic wetting agent)

3. Pluronic™ F-68 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) block), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- number average molecular weight of about 8400) (commercially available from BASF Corp.)

4. Tween™ 20 (polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- molecular weight of approximately 1227)

5. PEG™ (600) (poly(ethylene glycol), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- molecular weight of about 600)

6. Glycerin (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, lines 1-6 with the following amended paragraph:

Gelatin compositions 1A produced with lauryl sulfate, Pluronic™ F-68, Tween™ 20 and 30% lauryl sulfate candidate wetting agents were softer and less compressible. These compositions also displayed some loss of foam height and an increase in cell size and voids. The Tween™ 20 and 30% lauryl sulfate formulations demonstrated the most collapse and increase in cell size and voids.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, lines 15-20, with the following amended paragraph:

The Gelatin Compositions 1A with the lauryl sulfate (30% loading), Tween™ 20 and Pluronic™ F-68 wetting agents yielded a startling reduction in hydration time and about 3-10 seconds (versus 6 minutes for the Comparative Gelatin Composition 1B (control)). The amount of water absorbed was somewhat reduced for the 30% lauryl sulfate containing sample. It was basically unchanged for the other two compositions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, lines 32-34 through page 18, lines 1-2, with the following amended paragraph:

The above data of the different agents used, little or no change in the wet/dry ratio occurred with the use of either Tween™ 20 or PEG™ 600; modest lowering of the wet/dry ratio occurred with the use of Pluronic™ F-68 and Glycerin; and somewhat greater lowering of the wet/dry ratio occurred with the use of lauryl sulfate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, lines 4-15, with the following amended paragraph:

1. Tween™ 20 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate) (Aldrich Cat. #27434-8)
2. Tween™ 60 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monostearate) (Aldrich Cat. #37425-3)
3. Tween™ 85 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan trioleate) (Aldrich Cat. #38890-4)
4. Brij™ 35 (polyoxyethylene (23) lauryl ether) (Aldrich Cat. #85836-6) (Sigma)
5. Myrj™ 52 (polyoxyethylene (40) stearate) (Aldrich Cat. #P3440) (BASF)
6. Brij™ 78 (polyoxyethylene (23) steryl ether) (Sigma #23600-4)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, lines 7-10, with the following amended paragraph:

All samples of cross-lined gelatin, treated or not, yielded very large and similar uptakes for water (wet/dry weight). Also, as evident above, the best wetting agents were deemed those that produced the most rapid hydration, e.g., Tween™ 20, Brij™ 35 and Brij™ 78.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, lines 4-22, with the following amended paragraph:

The specific wetting agents employed were as follows:

1. Tween™ 20 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate) (Aldrich Cat. #27434-8)

2. Pluronic™ F-68 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-propylene oxide) block), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 8400) (commercially available from BASF Corp.)

3. Pluronic™ P-105 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) polymer), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 6500) (commercially available from BASF Corp.)

4. Pluronic™-10R5 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) polymer), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 4550) (commercially available from BASF Corp.).

5. Pluronic™-F38 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) block), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 5000) (commercially available from BASF Corp.).

Please replace Table 4, page 25, beginning on line 15 with the following amended Table 4:

Table 4 Hydration Times for Cross-Linked Gelatin Compositions with Wetting Agent Coatings of Varying Concentrations

Wetting Agent Used in Coating	Hydration Times at Wetting Agent Concentrations			
	0.10%	1.00%	3.00%	10.00%
Tween™ 20	15, 10; 60, 25, 15 sec	15,10; 15, 10, 10; 10 sec	20, 10 sec	20, 10 sec
Brij™ 35	10, 10, 10; 35, 20, 20 sec	15, 10, 10; 30, 20 sec	10, 20, 15 sec	20, 30, 30 sec
Brij™ 78	10, 15, 10 sec	10, 10; 25 sec	10, 10 sec	
P-105	15, 15 sec	10, 10; 10 sec	10, 10 sec	
10R5	15, 15 sec	10, 10 sec	10, 10 sec	

Please replace Table 5, page 27, with the following amended Table 5:

Wetting Agent	Concentration	Foam Wet	Foam Dry	Hydration Time	Wt. Wet/Dry
Tween™ 20	5%	¾ in.	3/8 in.	2 – 3 sec	NA
Tween™ 20	3%	½ in.	3/8 in.	2 – 3 sec	23.4
Tween™ 20	1%	¾ in.	¼ in.	2 – 3 sec	24.0

Tween™ 20	0.10%	¾ in.	5/8 in.	5 sec	41.5
Tween™ 20	3%	no foam		NA	NA
Tween™ 20	3%	no foam		NA	NA
Myrj™ 52	3%	no foam		NA	NA
Brij™ 35	3%	1 ¼ in.	¼ in.	2 – 3 sec	16.5
Brij™ 78	3%	½ in.	3/8 in.	2 – 3 sec	12.0
F-68	3%	1 in.	¼ in.	2 – 3 sec	19.7
Control	0%	1 ¾ in.	1 ¼ in.	8 min	45.8